

LARRY McKIBBEN

STATE SENATOR

Thirty-second District

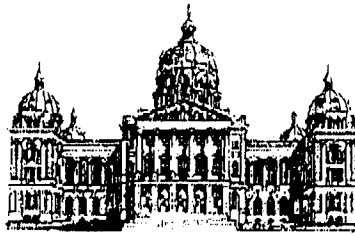
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**The Senate**

State of Iowa

Seventy-ninth General Assembly

STATEHOUSE

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

COMMITTEES

Appropriations

Business & Labor Relations

Local Government

Ways and Means, *Chair*

Transportation, Infrastructure, &

Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee

January 28, 2002

Judge Kollar Kotelly

c/o Ms. Renata Hesse

U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division

601 D Street NW, Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20530

Your Honor,

The new economy has been the source of an economic and technological renaissance in America and Microsoft has been a part of that from the beginning. At the dawn of the Information Age, there is no denying the importance of the technology industry to America's prosperity in the 21st century.

As an elected official, I need to ensure an environment that allows the technology industry's entrepreneurial freedom to innovate and reinvigorate our economy. We need a return of the self-regulating competition that has built this industry into the most vibrant and successful in the world. The U.S. economy stands to grow by leaps and bounds in coming years, all due to the innovation, competition, and customer-focused attitude of our high tech community.

This case opened a Pandora's box of litigation and regulation that is already stifling competition, cramping innovation, and harming consumers and investors. Microsoft's presence in the market increased competition and innovation driving *down* costs for consumers. Microsoft helped set a high standard in the market and raised the bar for competitors many of whom have stepped up to the plate and become viable competitors to Microsoft.

Considering a snapshot of the high-tech industry when this case started compared to one from today, it is a much different picture. Aside from the fact that the industry has outgrown this case, the proposed Final Judgment would decidedly help our economy and hopefully close the lid on the Pandora's box it opened. I urge you to approve the settlement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry McKibben". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Larry McKibben